

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Status of Laipin-Chennankuan Railroad

PLACE 25X1C

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE OF 25X1A

INFO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

DATE DISTR 17 AUG 51

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1X

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1. The Chinese Communist Railway Army Group supervised the construction of the railroad between Nanning and Chennankuan, which was originally scheduled for completion in early April. However, tunnels and portions of the roadbed which were poorly constructed were washed away by floods in early April. Many laborers died from diseases and malnutrition, while over one-half of the laborers now working are suffering from dysentery and malaria.
2. The engineering office of the Laipin-Chennankuan Branch Railroad and the Kwangsi Provincial Government have agreed that 10,000 additional civilian laborers must be recruited from districts along the railroad and that more clinics must be established to care for the laborers' health. Because of these difficulties, the Chinese Communist authorities have extended the deadline for the inauguration of traffic from the end of June to the end of August.

25X1C [REDACTED] Comment. A usually reliable source from a contact among railway circles in Canton states that the extension of the railroad between Nanning and Chennankuan was completed in mid-May. A pro-Nationalist newspaper in Hong Kong reported on 27 June that the railroad between Laipin and Nanning was put into operation on 25 February, and that the Communists were rushing the completion of the Nanning-Chennankuan section, which should be open for traffic by mid-July.

25X1X [REDACTED] believes that this section cannot possibly be completed by mid-July because of the shortage of materials and frequent guerrilla interruptions.

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Class. Changed To: TS S C  
Auth.: HR 10-2  
Date: 24-2-78  
By: 35

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